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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JANUARY MEETING, 1871.

A STATED meeting was held on Thursday, the 12th instant, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read by the Recording Secretary.

The Librarian read the usual monthly list of donors.

The Corresponding Secretary announced the receipt of a letter from John Foster Kirk, of Philadelphia, accepting his election as a Corresponding Member.

The President announced the death of a Corresponding Member, — Mr. Buckingham Smith, of Florida, — which took place in New York the 4th of January, 1871.

Henry T. Tuckerman, Esq., of New York, was elected a Corresponding Member.

The President exhibited three small pictures, drawn in crayons, belonging to the daughter of Captain Robert Gray, of Boston, the discoverer of Columbia River, designed to illustrate his connection with that historical event. On the back of one of them was this inscription: "Capt. Gray giving orders concerning the building of the ship." On another this: "Capt. Gray obliged to fire upon the natives who disregard his order to keep off." On the third, the following: "Capt. Gray, Commander of ship Columbia, facing his ship while discussing with a friend upon the discovery of Oregon."

The President exhibited a pack of cards made of horse-hide, presented to the Peabody Museum of Ethnology, at Cambridge, by Lieut. Duncan Sherman, U. S. Cavalry, and obtained from the Arizona Indians.

Dr. GREEN communicated and read in part the following paper, on the Bibliography of the Historical Society: —

The first publications of the Society appeared Jan. 6, 1792, in "The American Apollo," * a weekly magazine beginning at that time. They were printed in connection with the magazine during thirty-nine weeks, and comprised usually a signature of eight pages, which could be separated from the rest of the pamphlet, and was called Part I. of each number. The first 208 pages of Vol. I. of the Collections were published in this way; and the remainder, consisting of 80 pages, came out in monthly parts, in September, October, November, and December, 1792. The second and third volumes were continued in monthly parts, but the fourth and fifth were issued in quarterly parts. The Collections — of which there are now thirty-eight volumes — are divided into series of ten volumes each. Hubbard's History of New England, which constitutes Vols. V. and VI. of the second series, was published with a title-page to correspond with the other volumes of the Collections, — also with a different one, so that the work might be sold separately. This History passed through a second edition in 1848, when it was again printed on the same plan. This edition was carefully collated with the original manuscript, and contains numerous additional notes. The same method was followed in publishing Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation, which is Vol. III. of the fourth series, so that it appears both as an independent volume and as one of a set. It will be seen from the list given below, that the first twenty-one volumes have been reprinted, and that Vols. I. and V. have reached a third edition.

Vol. I. was printed in 1792, reprinted in 1806, and again reprinted in 1859.

Vol. V. was printed in 1798, reprinted in 1816, and again reprinted in 1835.

Vol.	II.	was	printed	in	1793,	and	reprinted	in	1810.
,,	III.	,,	,,	,,	1794,	,,	,,	,,	1810.
,,	IV.	,,	,,	,,	1795,	,,	,,	,,	1835.
,,	VI.	,,	,,	,,	1800,	,,	,,	,,	1846.
,,	VII.	,,	,,	,,	1801,	,,	,,	,,	1846.
,,	VIII.	,,	,,	,,	1802,	,,	,,	,,	1856.
,,	IX.	,,	,,	,,	1804,	,,	,,	,,	1857.
,,	X.	,,	,,	,,	1809,	,,	,,	,,	1857.

SECOND SERIES.

Vol.	I.	was	printed	in	1814,	and	reprinted	in	1838.
,,	II.	,,	,,	,,	1814,	,,	,,	,,	1846.
,,	III.	,,	,,	,,	1815,	,,	,,	,,	1846.
,,	IV.	,,	,,	,,	1816,	,,	,,	,,	1846.

* The Prospectus of this magazine reads as follows: —

To all the Friends of Science, Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce. Proposal of Joseph Belknap and Alexander Young, for printing a weekly paper; to be entitled THE AMERICAN APOLLO. *Containing the Publications of the* HISTORICAL SOCIETY, *Political and Commercial Intelligence, and other entertaining matter.* Printed at Boston, (*Massachusetts*) by J. Belknap and A. Young. MDCCXCI.

Vol.	V.	was	printed	in	1815,	and	reprinted	in 1848.
,,	VI.	,,	,,	,,	1815,	,,	,,	,, 1848.
,,	VII.	,,	,,	,,	1818,	,,	,,	,, 1826.
,,	VIII.	,,	,,	,,	1819,	,,	,,	,, 1826.
,,	IX.	,,	,,	,,	1822,	,,	,,	,, 1832.
,,	X.	,,	,,	,,	1823,	,,	,,	,, 1843.

THIRD SERIES.

Vol.	I.	was	printed	in	1825,	and	reprinted	in 1846.
,,	II.	,,	,,	,,	1830.			
,,	III.	,,	,,	,,	1833.			
,,	IV.	,,	,,	,,	1834.			
,,	V.	,,	,,	,,	1836.			
,,	VI.	,,	,,	,,	1837.			
,,	VII.	,,	,,	,,	1838.			
,,	VIII.	,,	,,	,,	1843.			
,,	IX.	,,	,,	,,	1846.			
,,	X.	,,	,,	,,	1849.			

FOURTH SERIES.

Vol.	I.	was	printed	in	1852.
,,	II.	,,	,,	,,	1854.
,,	III.	,,	,,	,,	1856.
,,	IV.	,,	,,	,,	1858.
,,	V.	,,	,,	,,	1861.
,,	VI.	,,	,,	,,	1863.
,,	VII.	,,	,,	,,	1865.
,,	VIII.	,,	,,	,,	1868.

The first volume of the Proceedings was published in 1859, and the series has been continued to the present time. These volumes comprise the proceedings of the Society, and begin with the Annual Meeting, April 12, 1855. Nine have now been published. They are not numbered on the title-pages, but have been marked on the backs of the covers with the years in which the meetings were held; for example, the first volume which ends with December, 1858, is marked 1855–1858. The last volume, for 1869–1870, has appeared in eight parts, each one, with a single exception, containing the proceedings of two meetings, or more, according to the length of the record. One hundred copies of these parts have been printed for the convenience of members. This plan gives an opportunity to detect mistakes for correction in the stereotype plates.

The first printed Catalogue of the books in the Library was a pamphlet of 40 pages, and appeared in 1796. This was followed by a "Catalogue of the Books, Pamphlets, Newspapers, Maps, Charts, Manuscripts," &c., in 1811. The first volume of the present Catalogue appeared in 1859, and the second volume was issued the next year. These three are the only printed lists of the books in the general library. A few copies of the first 240 pages of Vol. I. of the Catalogue were printed separately as specimen numbers to show to the members. It may be worth the while to put on record a fact in regard to the Catalogue of the Dowse Library. The book was printed before the Library was given to the Historical Society, and a

title-page was prepared for twenty-five copies, the owner deciding to limit the issue to that number during his life. At a later period, however, the additional sheets of the catalogue were found, and it was deemed advisable to print a new title-page for the remaining copies. In the list hereafter given, it appears that there are two Catalogues of the Dowse Library, bearing the dates 1856 and 1870 respectively, though in fact they are the same work with different title-pages.

In 1869 a volume was published, entitled "Lectures delivered in a Course before the Lowell Institute, in Boston, by Members of the Massachusetts Historical Society, on Subjects relating to the Early History of Massachusetts."

This course comprised thirteen lectures, of which twelve were published in a pamphlet form by their respective authors. The following is a list of those that were thus printed: —

Massachusetts and its Early History. Introductory Lecture in the course on the Early History of Massachusetts, by Members of the Massachusetts Historical Society, at the Lowell Institute, delivered January 5, 1869. By Robert C. Winthrop. pp. 27.

I. The Aims and Purposes of the Founders of Massachusetts.

II. Their Treatment of Intruders and Dissentients.

Two Lectures, delivered January 8 and January 12, 1869. By George E. Ellis. pp. 100.

History of Grants under the Great Council for New England, delivered January 15, 1869. By Samuel F. Haven. pp. 36.

The Colony of New Plymouth and its Relations to Massachusetts, delivered January 19, 1869. By William Brigham. pp. 27.

Slavery as it once prevailed in Massachusetts, delivered January 22, 1869. By Emory Washburn. pp. 35.

Records of Massachusetts under its First Charter, delivered January 26, 1869. By Charles W. Upham. pp. 30.

The Medical Profession in Massachusetts, delivered January 29, 1869. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. pp. 45.

The Regicides sheltered in New England, delivered February 5, 1869. By Chandler Robbins. pp. 36.

The First Charter and the Early Religious Legislation of Massachusetts, delivered February 9, 1869. By Joel Parker. pp. 85.

Puritan Politics in England and New England, delivered February 12, 1869. By Edward E. Hale. pp. 22.

Education in Massachusetts, delivered February 16, 1869. By George B. Emerson. pp. 36.

The following is a list of the minor publications of the Society, and includes all papers, as far as can now be ascertained, that have been brought before it and afterward printed. They have for the most part been reprinted from the Collections, or the Proceedings. When they are not otherwise described, they are in octavo form and bear the imprint of Boston. The editions of such publications are usually limited to a small number of copies, — generally from thirty to one hundred, — and are printed for the persons most interested in them. Since 1859 it has been the custom at the Annual Meeting, for the Treasurer of the Society to give on a printed sheet a statement of the funds. But these sheets do not appear in the list.

Acts, By-Laws, &c.

Acts of Incorporation, Laws, and Circular Letter, with Appendix. 1794. pp. 14.

The Act of Incorporation, By-Laws, Catalogue of Members, and Circular Letter of the Mass. Hist. Soc. 1813. pp. 26.

Laws and Regulations of the Mass. Hist. Soc., revised and reported by the Standing Committee. Cambridge, 1833. pp. 8.

The Act of Incorporation and By-Laws. 1853. pp. 12.

The Act of Incorporation, with the Additional Acts, and By-Laws. 1857. pp. 19.

Circulars, &c.

Circular Letter of the Historical Society. [1791.] pp. 3.

Circular Letter addressed in 1794, by Jeremy Belknap, to Gentlemen of Science in America, requesting Historical Information, and Contributions to the Library and Cabinet. [No imprint.] 4to, pp. 3.

Circular Letter in relation to the Society. 1832. 4to, 1 page.

Circular Letter to the Members. 1844. 4to, 1 page.

Circular Letter to the Members. 1854. 4to, pp. 3.

Circular Letter to the Members. 1857. 4to, 1 page.

Circular Letter to the Resident and Corresponding Members, soliciting Contributions to the Library and Cabinet. [No imprint.] 4to, pp. 3.

Circular relating to the Collection of Memorials of the War. August 8, 1861. 4to, 1 page.

Circular to Members relating to Photographs. February 15, 1865. 12mo, 1 page.

Circular relating to the Publications of the Society, with Table of Contents. [1865.] 4to, pp. 4.

Prospectus for Hubbard's History of New England. [1814.]

Prospectus for the Historical Collections. 1814.

Prospectus for the Proceedings for 1855–58. 1859.

Prospectus for the Lectures on the Early History of Massachusetts. 1869.

Prospectus for the Sewall Diary 1870.

Notification of an election of a member, with a Circular soliciting Contributions to the Library and Cabinet. [No imprint.] 4to, pp. 3.

List of Resident Members. June, 1864. Folio, 1 page

Memoirs, Tributes, &c.

Memoir towards a Character of John Eliot. [By Joseph McKean.] 1813. pp. 40.

Notices of the Life of Benjamin Lincoln. [1815.] pp. 23.

[This paper is signed P. C. It is accredited, however, in the Index of Authors, to John T. Kirkland. Vol. X., 2d Series, pp. 201.]

Memoir of Wiliam Tudor. [By William Tudor, Jr.] 1826. pp. 41.

Biographical Notice of Dudley A. Tyng. By John Lowell. [No imprint.] pp. 17.

Memoir of John Allyn. By Convers Francis. [1836.] pp. 8.

Memoir of John Pickering. By William H. Prescott. Cambridge, 1848. pp. 27.

Memoir of Thaddeus Mason Harris. By Nathaniel L. Frothingham. 1854. pp. 28.

Memoir of Abbott Lawrence. By Nathan Appleton. 1856. pp. 21.

Memoir of William P. Lunt. By Nathaniel L. Frothingham. [No imprint.] pp. 8.

The Same. Privately printed. 1858. pp. 16.

Memoir of William Appleton. By Chandler Robbins. 1863. pp. 64.

Memoir of Nathan Appleton. By Robert C. Winthrop. 1861. pp. 79.

Memoir of Luther V Bell. By George E. Ellis. 1863. pp. 75.
Memoir of Charles Mason. By A. P. Peabody. [With an appendix.] 1863. pp. 39.
Memoir of William Sturgis. By Charles G. Loring. 1864. pp. 64.
Memoir of Josiah Quincy. By James Walker. Cambridge, 1867. pp. 76.
Memoir of Joseph Willard. Cambridge, 1867. pp. 25.
Memoir of Joseph Story. By George S. Hillard. 1868. pp. 32.
Memoir of George Livermore. By Charles Deane. Cambridge, 1869. pp. 60.
Memoir of Jared Sparks. By George E. Ellis. Cambridge, 1869. pp. 106.
The Same. [50 copies printed on large paper.]
Memoir of Levi Lincoln. By Emory Washburn. Cambridge, 1869. pp. 39.
Memoir of Charles Greely Loring. By Theophilus Parsons. Cambridge, 1870. pp. 31.
Memoir of Nathaniel L. Frothingham. By Frederic H. Hedge. 1870. pp. 20.
Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Soc. in respect to the memory of William Hickling Prescott, February 1, 1859. 1859. pp. 53.
Tribute of the Mass. Hist. Soc. to the memory of Josiah Quincy, July 14, 1864. 1864. pp. 32.
[Tribute by the President to Benjamin Silliman and Charles Christian Rafn. 1864. pp. 4.]
Tribute of the Mass. Hist. Soc. to the memory of Edward Everett, January 30, 1865. 1865. pp. 90.
Tribute of the Mass. Hist. Soc. to the memory of George Livermore. 1866. pp. 19.
Tribute to Henry H. Milman. [1868.] pp. 4.
Tribute to John Pendleton Kennedy. [1870.] pp. 16.

DOWSE LIBRARY.

Catalogue of the Private Library of Thomas Dowse. Presented to the Mass. Hist. Soc., July 30, 1856. [Twenty-five copies printed.] 1856. pp. 214.
The Same. 1870. pp. 214.
Report of the Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, on the presentation of the Dowse Library, April 9, 1857. pp. 8.
Eulogy on Thomas Dowse, of Cambridgeport, pronounced before the Mass. Hist. Soc., December 9, 1858, by Edward Everett, with the Introductory Address of Mr. Winthrop, and an Appendix. 1859. pp. 82.
Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Soc., relating to the donations from Thomas Dowse; with Eulogy of Edward Everett. Privately printed. 1859. pp. 80.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Discourse intended to commemorate the Discovery of America by Columbus. Delivered at the request of the Historical Society in Massachusetts, October 23, 1792. With Four Dissertations connected with various parts of the Discourse. By Jeremy Belknap. 1792. pp. 132.
Historical Journal of the American War. [By Thomas Pemberton.] 1795. pp. 304.
Description and History of Newton, in the County of Middlesex. By Jonathan Homer. [1798.] pp. 28.
The History of Cambridge. By Abiel Holmes. 1801. pp. 67.
A Memoir of the Moheagan Indians. [By Abiel Holmes. 1804.] pp. 27.

A Memoir of Stephen Parmenius, of Buda; with a Latin Poem, &c. [By Abiel Holmes. 1804.] pp. 19.

Order of Services, December 22, 1813, at King's Chapel, Boston, in Commemoration of the Landing of the Forefathers. 1813. pp. 4.

A Discourse before the Mass. Hist. Soc., Boston, December 22, 1813, at the Annual Commemoration of the First Landing at Plymouth, 1620. By John Davis. 1814. pp. 31.

Annals of New England. By Thomas Prince. Vol. II. Nos. I.–III. 1818. pp. 97.

A Memoir of the French Protestants, who settled at Oxford, in Massachusetts, 1686, with a Sketch of the Entire History of the Protestants in France. By Abiel Holmes. Cambridge, 1826. pp. 84.

Vocabulary of the Massachusetts Indian Language. By Josiah Cotton. Cambridge, 1829. pp. 112.

List of Portraits in the Hall of the Historical Society. [1838.] pp. 285–292.

[Regulations of the] Library of the Mass. Hist. Soc., April, 1841. pp. 2.

The New England Confederacy of 1643. A Discourse delivered before the Mass. Hist. Soc., May 29, 1843. By John Quincy Adams. 1843. pp. 47.

Memoirs of the Pilgrims at Leyden. By George Sumner. Cambridge, 1845. pp. 35.

The first Plymouth Patent, granted June 1, 1621. Edited by Charles Deane. Privately printed. Cambridge, 1854. pp. 16.

Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Soc. [An account of the Annual Meeting, April 12.] 1855. pp. 15.

Washington chair presented to the Mass. Hist. Soc., by Benjamin R. Winthrop. [1856.] pp. 7.

A Bibliographical Essay on Governor Hutchinson's Historical Publications. By Charles Deane. . . . 1857. pp. 39. Fifty copies privately printed.

Memorial of the Mass. Hist. Soc. to the Legislature. [1858.] 4to, pp. 3.

Speech of Josiah Quincy before a Committee of the Legislature, February, 1858. pp. 8.

A Declaration of the Affairs of the English People that first inhabited New England. By Phinehas Pratt. Edited with notes, by Richard Frothingham, Jr. 1858. pp. 20.

Paper read before the Mass. Hist. Soc., January, 1859 [on the uniform of the Continental Army]. By C. H. Warren. pp. 6.

Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Soc. 1858–1860. Selected from the Records. [Specimen.] 1859. pp. 21.

Naturalization in the American Colonies, with more particular reference to Massachusetts. By Joseph Willard. 1859. pp. 30.

Report of a Committee on Papers read at the Meetings of the Society. 1860. 4to, pp. 2.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Mass. Hist. Soc., on Exchange of Prisoners during the Revolutionary War. [By George T. Curtis.] 1861. pp. 26.

An Historical Research respecting the Opinions of the Founders of the Republic, on Negroes as Slaves, as Citizens, and as Soldiers. By George Livermore. 1862. pp. 215.

Supplementary Notes and Index to be added to the First Edition of "An Historical Research." [1862.] pp. 217–236.

An Historical Research, &c. Second edition. 1862. pp. 236.

The Same. Third edition. Published for the New England Loyal Publication Society. 1863. pp. 184.

The Same. Fourth edition. 1863. pp. 184.

The Same. Fifth edition, fifty copies on large paper. 1863. pp. 184.

Remarks on the Narraganset Patent, June, 1862. By Thomas Aspinwall. 1863. pp. 41.

The Same. Providence, 1865. pp. 40.

Plan for the General Arrangement of the Militia of the United States. By General Knox . . . with remarks by Joseph Willard. 1863. pp. 42.

List of the Maps of Boston. By Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. 1863. pp. 8.

Letters of Phillis Wheatley, the Negro-slave Poet of Boston. Privately printed. [Edited by Charles Deane.] 1864. pp. 19.

"Journal de Castorland." By John Appleton. 1864. pp. 15.

Notices of the Triennial and Annual Catalogues of Harvard University: with a reprint of the Catalogues of 1674, 1682, and 1700. By John Langdon Sibley. 1865. pp. 67.

The Same. Thirty copies on large paper.

The Origin and Sources of the Bill of Rights declared in the Constitution of Massachusetts. By Emory Washburn. Cambridge, 1866. pp. 22.

Letters of John Andrews, of Boston, 1772–1776. Compiled and edited by Winthrop Sargent. Cambridge, 1866. pp. 100.

(A list of *errata* in these letters appears in the Proceedings for 1864–1865.)

The Origin, Organization, and Influence of the Towns of New England; a paper read before the Mass. Hist. Soc., Dec. 14, 1865. By Joel Parker. Cambridge, 1867. pp. 54.

Notes concerning Peter Pelham, the earliest Artist resident in New England, and his Successors prior to the Revolution. By William H. Whitmore. Cambridge, 1867. pp. 31.

Sermon preached at Boston, in New England, upon a Fast Day, the 19th of January, 1636–37. By John Wheelwright. [With a Prefatory Note by Charles Deane.] Cambridge, 1867. pp. 22.

The Same. With notes by Henry B. Dawson. Morrisania, N. Y. 1867. pp. 28.

History of Bacon's and Ingram's Rebellion in Virginia, 1675 and 1676. [With a Prefatory Note by Charles Deane.] Cambridge, 1867. pp. 50.

John Sullivan. A Vindication of his Character as a Soldier and a Patriot. By Thomas C. Amory. Morrisania, N. Y. 1867. pp. 52.

Last Will and Testament of Capt. John Smith, with some additional memoranda relating to him. [Edited by Charles Deane.] 1867. 4to, pp. 7.

Seal of the "Council for New England." By Charles Deane. [1867.] pp. 4.

[Resolutions of the Society relating to the bust of George Peabody. 1868.] page 1.

Harvard College Monitor's Bill. Communication addressed to Mr. J. L. Sibley, from Mr. Franklin Bowditch Dexter, of Yale College. [1868.] pp. 6.

The Forms in issuing Letters-Patent by the Crown of England. By Charles Deane. Privately printed. Cambridge, 1870. pp. 24.

Life of Thomas Dudley, written as is supposed by Cotton Mather. Edited by Charles Deane. 1870. pp. 20.

Description of a Selection of Coins and Medals relating to America, exhibited to the Mass. Hist. Soc., April 28, 1870. By William S. Appleton. Cambridge, 1870. pp. 16.

"The St. Regis Bell." [By Geo. T. Davis. 1870.] pp. 311–321.

Letter written from San Francisco, Cal., to the Mass. Hist. Soc. By Robert C. Waterston. Cambridge, 1870. pp. 10.

A Dialogue or Third Conference between some Young Men born in New England, and some Ancient Men which came out of Holland and Old England, concerning the Church and the Government thereof. By William Bradford. Edited, with a preface and notes, by Charles Deane. 1870. pp. 78.

Bibliography of the Massachusetts Historical Society. By Samuel A. Green. 1871. pp. 10.

The President called attention to a volume presented to the Society by Mr. Whitmore, compiled by him, and entitled "The Massachusetts Civil List, for the Colonial and Provincial Periods, 1630–1774," &c.

He also alluded to the presence at this meeting of our Corresponding Member, the Rev. Leonard Woods, D.D., late President of Bowdoin College, who briefly responded.

Prof. WASHBURN, who had served as a delegate of the Society at the Plymouth celebration on the 21st December, reported that every thing that was done was worthy of the occasion.

Mr. C. F. ADAMS presented and read to the Society an official copy, in the handwriting of William Cooper, Town Clerk, of the Instructions of the Town of Boston to Thomas Cushing, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and William Phillips, the Representatives to the General Court. Although the paper was probably printed in the newspapers of that day, it is believed to be of sufficient interest to be given here.

BOSTON, May 25, 1772.

At the adjournment of the May meeting of the Freeholders & other inhabitants of this town, on Wednesday last, the committee for that purpose appointed reported the following Draft of Instructions; which, being read Paragraph by Paragraph, was unanimously accepted by the town. Viz^{t}: —

To the Honorable Thomas Cushing, Esq^{r}, M^{r} Sam^{l} Adams, the Honorable John Hancock, Esq^{r}, & M^{r} William Phillips.

GENTLEMEN, — The Choice we have made of you to represent us in the Assembly of the Commons of this Province at the ensuing sessions of the General Court, is the strongest testimony of the high Opinion which we entertain of your integrity & abilities. Nevertheless we think it Our duty at such a time as this, when the very being of our constitution is so dangerously attack'd, to express to you whom we have deputed, & impowered to act for us, the sence we have of the Oppressions which we suffer. No People were ever in circum[stances] more truly alarming than those in which the People of this Province now are. An exteriour Power claims a right to govern us, & have for a number of years been levying an illegal Tax on us; whereby we are degraded from the Rank of free subjects, to the dispicable condition of Slaves. For it is evident to the meanest Understanding, that Great Britain can have no right to take our money from us, without our consent, unless we are her slaves; unless our bodies, our persons are her property, she surely cannot have the least claim to dispose of Our Earnings; & though we have hitherto failed of success in Our applications for the redress of this cruel grievance, we are still determined to exert our utmost efforts to break up this banefull source of Despotism & misery. The attention of every one, who has the least affection to his country, must be awakened to this important subject, when he sees the

long train of evils which flow from it. We are especially under the most uneasy Apprehensions from the repeated refusals of Our Governor to Accept of an honorable support from the People; & we have the highest reason to believe that a part of the very money Unjustly taken from us is Applied to support him in a state of Independance upon the People Over whom he presides; if this is the case, our situation is truly deplorable. The same oppressions, of which we so justly complain, are made the support of the man, who ought to exert his Utmost power to Obtain a redress of Our Grievances. A ruler independant of the People over whom he presides is abhorrent to the principles of a free Government. Power without a Check is Tyranny: whoever is possessed of such a power is a master, instead of a Governor, & whoever submits to such a power is a slave, instead of a subject. The intention & only reasonable end of Government is the happiness of Mankind; and every branch of a legal Government ought to be interested in the publick welfare, & should have every possible inducement to study & promote the Happiness of the Governed. But we fear that the interest of this People, & of the Gentleman who presides over us, are made as distinct & even as opposite as they possibly can be; & if we allow Ourselves to form a judgment from what has taken place since his Excellency's Accession to the chair, our fears must be augmented & confirmed, as the administration of affairs has been altogather such, as must necessarily have resulted from an opposition of interest and the Governors entire independancy on us. We shall mention to you a few striking instances of the Justice of this remark. We think it impossible that our Governor should be at liberty to consult, like the Father of this People, their true interest, whilst he considers himself bound to Obey instructions sent to him from the Other side of the Atlantic. For altho' he may know that doing any particular act would be beneficial to the People, & conducive to his Majesty's service, yet if he is instructed to the contrary it must not be done. But if he is instructed to do an Act which he knows will be injurious to the People, & detrimental to his Majesty's service, yet according to this new system he must do it. Every consideration of the fitness & Reasonableness of the transaction is thrown aside; & whatever may be the consequence to King or People the Governor must exercise the power committed to him, not agreeable to his Discretion & the apparent interest of the province, but according to the instructions received from a minister Three Thousand Miles distance. Instructions are urged in excuse for Almost every thing of which we complain. By an Instruction, our Legislative body are restrain'd from meeting at their antient & establish'd seat, contrary to their inclinations so repeatedly declared to the Governor. By an instruction Our Fortress Castle William, built & for a long time supported by the Province for its Defence, has been delivered to Troops, over whom the Captain General of the Province has declared he has no controul; & who to appearance have taken more care to make it formidable to this Town, than to any Foreign enemy. Under the influence of an instruction the Governor has refused his consent to a Tax Bill, for defreying the necessary charges

of Government, because such persons as the British Minister was pleased to point Out were not expressly exempted from bearing their due proportion of said Tax. And what seems to compleat our misfortune is, that an instruction is pleaded for refusing a Grant for the payment of Our Agents at the Court of Great Britain. Thus we are to be cut off, even from complaint, that last Resource of the wretched.

His Excellency is instructed not to sign any Grant for the payment of an agent, unless he is chosen by the three Branches of the Legislature. He cannot consent to the choice of any One who is proscribed in his instructions. It is against an administration in which Lord Hillsborough & his dependants are principal Actors, that we complain; but no One whom he disapproves must be allowed to manage Our Complaints!

It is difficult to restrain our indignation at the gross affront offered to our understanding in this affair. A capacity but little remote from Idiotism is sufficient to discover the fatal consequences of this Ministerial Plot.

The Town have in times past declared to their Representatives their sence of the Burthen laid upon the commercial interest of the community, by the extention of the powers of the Court of Admiralty. A Jurisdiction, in its very nature, repugnant to our constitution, & contrary to Magna Charta, as it invests one judge, appointed by the Crown, with Authority to determine concerns the most important to the property & liberty of the subject. And they express'd their sence of this Grievance, as sharpned by the contrast which appears in the same statute, between the Mother Country & the Colonies. For however it may be Urged, that the Court of Admiralty is established by the Charter of this Province, yet by the same Charter the People of this Province are intituled to all the Liberties, Privileges & immunities of free British Subjects. And to see the Brittish Parliament, by One & the same statute, taking from the Colonies an important right, namely, TRIALS BY JURIES, and securing that right to themselves, in cases of the same nature & importance, must be deeply affecting to us. We take this Opportunity of renewing our Protestation against the powers of that Court, which have already proved so vexatious to persons concern'd in Trade; & in a very recent instance, according to the best information we are able to obtain, have been made use of to disturb & harrass the industrious Farmer, & which, if not restrain'd, bid fair to render all property, either Real or Personal, to the last degree precarious.

Thus Gentlemen, have we exhibited to you a View of many of the Grievances which distress this People, & we expect that you will use your Utmost influence, in the ensuing sessions of the General Court, to have them radically redressed; not doubting but you will receive the most ready & effectual assistance, from those wise Patriots who are or shall be Chosen to represent our Brethren in the several Towns of this faithful Province. In particular, we desire that you would use your influence that a Remonstrance be presented to his Majesty, (whose elevated station denominates him the Father of his People, & the tenure of whose Throne is the protection of his subjects) against the

Oppressions which we suffer: Laying open to his view in the fullest & plainest manner the true state of this his province of the Massachusetts Bay, & pleading with him, with that Freedom & Firmness which the Justice of the cause & the exigences of your Country demand. And that you may not fail reaching the Royal Ear, we instruct you to exert yourselves to procure a proper Grant from the House of Representatives, for the payment of the Agents who have served the Honorable his Majesty's Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives for some years past; & that you take timely care to know whether the same is concurred with, & consented to by the other two Branches of the Legislature, & if it is not, that you endeavour to Obtain a Resolve of the House for a Brief, for raising a sum sufficient for the defreying the Charges of a Agency for the year ensuing, that so we may at least in this way make use of Our Own money to purchase an Access to the ear of our King. There are Gent^{n} many other matters of great importance to the Province, which will come before you and we are happy that we can with confidence commit our concerns to you. Hoping that by the favour of divine Providence, you will be greatly instrumental in restoring, and securing, both to us & our Posterity, our violated rights. Then Only may we with reason expect to enjoy the invaluable blessings of harmony & good Government.

A true Copy.

Att. WILLIAM COOPER,
Town Clerk.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held on Thursday, the 9th of February, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The record of the preceding meeting was read.

The Librarian read his monthly list of donors to the Library.

The President called special attention to a volume presented by Mr. Edward Doubleday Harris, of Cambridge, containing a record in manuscript, executed in a beautiful manner, of "Ancient Epitaphs contained in the old Burying Ground of Lexington, Mass., 1690–1799."

He also spoke particularly of a volume presented by the author, entitled "A Collection of Curious and Interesting Epitaphs copied from the Monuments of Distinguished and Noted Characters in the Ancient Church and Burial Grounds of Saint Pancras, Middlesex. By Frederick Teague Cansick. . London, . . 1869."

In presenting this volume the author said it would be followed by others, which he would also present to the Society as they appeared.